

## THE CONCEPT OF SOCIAL STUDIES EDUCATION IN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

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### ABSTRACT

*Learning social sciences (social sciences) at the( seventh grade level )introduces students to basic concepts about social roles in society. This summarizes the learning approach that will be used to help students understand the structure of society, the role of individuals in social groups, and the importance of interactions between individuals in creating social harmony. Through the use of discussion, research and simulation methods, students are expected to develop a better understanding of how society functions, and they as individuals can contribute positively to the society they live in. By focusing on the application of knowledge in the context of everyday life, this learning aims to form students who are aware of their rights, obligations and responsibilities as active participating members of society*

**Keywords:** Social roles in society, Structure of society, Role of individuals in social groups, Interactions for social harmony, Discussion, Research, Simulation methods, Understanding society's function

### INTRODUCTION

Social science is a science that studies social phenomena that occur in the surrounding environment. Social science is a combination of several scientific disciplines, such as geography, history, sociology, and economics. The focus of study in social science lessons is human activity in various dimensions of social life by the characteristics of humans and social creatures. IPS aims to provide students with an understanding of various aspects of social, political, economic, and cultural life.

The Independent Curriculum is an educational concept that emphasizes the freedom of schools to design and implement the curriculum by local needs, student potential, and the demands of the times. This means giving schools the freedom to adapt the curriculum to the conditions and context of the society in which they are located, thereby enabling a more flexible and relevant approach to the learning process.

The social studies learning background in the Merdeka Curriculum for grade 7, is an emphasis on developing critical, creative, and collaborative thinking skills. This curriculum aims to provide meaningful learning experiences for students, enabling them to relate concepts in social studies to everyday life and relevant global issues.

In addition, the Merdeka Curriculum emphasizes student-centered learning, where students have greater control over their learning process. Learning focuses not only on receiving information, but also on deeper understanding, application of concepts in real contexts, and the ability to take relevant action.

In the context of social studies, this can be implemented through independent research, collaborative projects, simulations of real-world situations, and the use of technology as a tool for the exploration and presentation of information. The goal is to help students develop a deep understanding of social, economic, political, and cultural dynamics, and prepare them to become critical-thinking and responsible citizens in a

society that is constantly changing.

## **METHOD**

The research method used by the researcher to write this article is a qualitative method in which the researcher analyzes and seeks an understanding of social science. Education and national character and then expressed in an explanatory or descriptive way, which is a method in the research process whether it is a group of people, an object or condition, an idea, or an event that is happening.

Then, in the data collection process, the researcher sorted these journals using a literature study approach, that is, the researcher used library literature from similar data sources, namely articles, journals, books, and reports from previous research results related to the title that the researcher picked up.

The qualitative method is a method that focuses on in-depth observation. Therefore, the use of qualitative methods in research can produce a more comprehensive study of a phenomenon. Qualitative research that pays attention to humanism or individual humans and human behavior is a response to the awareness that all the consequences of human actions are influenced by the internal aspects of the individual. These internal aspects include the beliefs, political views, and social background of the individual concerned.

Qualitative research begins with ideas expressed in research questions. These research questions will determine the data collection method and how to analyze it. Qualitative methods are dynamic, meaning they are always open to changes, additions, and replacements during the analysis process.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

A social attitude is a predisposition or tendency to behave in a way directed toward social goals, as opposed to an attitude directed toward personal goals.

The Independent Curriculum is an effort to give schools more freedom in designing curriculum according to local needs and student characteristics. In the context of social studies (Social Sciences) learning for grade 7, several approaches and topics that may be emphasized in the Merdeka Curriculum include:

**Contextual Approach:** The Merdeka Curriculum encourages learning that is relevant to students' context, for example by studying history, geography, and their local culture.

**Skills Development:** Apart from understanding historical and geographical facts, students are also taught to develop analysis, synthesis, and evaluation skills through social studies learning.

**Use of Local Resources:** Teachers may be asked to use local resources, such as local communities, historical sites, or local experts to enrich social studies learning.

**Understanding Multiculturalism:** Through social studies learning, students are also taught to understand and appreciate the diversity of cultures, religions, and traditions in Indonesian society and the world.

**Project-Based Learning:** Teachers can use a project-based learning approach where students are given research projects or investigations that enable them to apply social studies knowledge in real-life contexts.

Examples of topics that may be emphasized in grade 7 social studies learning in the Merdeka Curriculum include:

Indonesian history, including prehistoric times, archipelago kingdoms, and the struggle for independence. Indonesian geographies, such as regional maps, climate, relief,

and natural resources. Indonesia's government system, includes government structure, division of power, and democratic mechanisms. Indonesian culture, such as art, customs, and community traditions. Global issues, such as climate change, international trade, or humanitarian issues.

However, because the Merdeka Curriculum gives schools flexibility in designing the curriculum, the implementation of social studies learning for grade 7 can vary from one school to another depending on the local context and students' needs

## CONCLUSION

The importance of learning social studies in seventh-grade middle school is not only about understanding history and society but also about developing critical skills and perspectives that are important for students' future personal and professional development. And also develop the potential of students to become human beings who have knowledge, skills, attitudes, and moral values, and are responsible in society, according to educational publishers. By studying social sciences, students can form an awareness of the social world. Students can develop various skills to form an understanding of geography and economics, abilities analysis of critical thinking abilities, and social literacy skills. The point is that social studies learning in junior high school is of course very important for individuals living in society, and the role of teachers is optimal. This learning is certainly very necessary. So that a civilized society can be realized based on life values.

The theoretical comparison contained in this journal includes the theory of the benefits of social studies learning from research by the Ministry of Education and Culture. Implementation of differentiated social studies learning in the Merdeka Belajar curriculum. social studies learning according to regional regulations, and the benefits of social studies learning according to the law. According to the Ministry of Education, the benefits of learning social sciences are that students in junior high school have the development of critical thinking skills, preparation for participating in society, increasing global awareness, and developing social literacy skills. In social studies learning in junior high school, the curriculum is used. This curriculum emphasizes a learning approach that is more interactive, collaborative, and student-centered. Social studies learning materials are integrated with cross-subject learning to provide a more comprehensive understanding of social, political, economic, and cultural realities. According to the regional regulation, social studies learning in social studies education is of course very important for individuals living in society, and the role of teachers is optimal. This learning is certainly very necessary. So that a civilized society can be realized based on life values. According to the law, it is stated that education in Indonesia aims to develop the potential of students to become human beings who believe and are devoted to God Almighty, have the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and moral values, and are responsible in society. So these theories are mutually involved with each other.

The impact of learning social sciences for junior high school students is to help students understand the structure of society, social life, culture, and history. This is important so that students can develop empathy, appreciate diversity, and understand the social context in which they live. Through IPS, students are invited to understand global problems such as international trade, the environment, and conflicts between nations. This helps them prepare to become responsible global citizens. Social studies courses often involve data analysis, evaluating information sources, and making conclusions based on evidence. This helps students develop critical thinking skills that are essential in everyday life and future careers. Social studies also introduces students to basic economic and

political concepts, such as how the government works, human rights, and the importance of participation in democratic processes. However, the effectiveness of social studies learning depends on a well-developed curriculum, adequate teacher training, and the implementation of teaching methods that are relevant and interesting for students. By paying attention to these things, social studies learning in junior high schools can make a significant contribution to the formation of critical thinking, social understanding, and readiness to face future challenges.

The concepts in social studies learning in junior high school often take the form of theories, models, or views about how society functions, how interactions between individuals and institutions, or how power and policies influence social dynamics. Meanwhile, government regulations are usually policies or rules set by the government to regulate the behavior of society or institutions in a country. These regulations are often based on broader legal, political, economic, and social considerations. Social studies learning in junior high school includes several main concepts, namely social studies integrating various social science disciplines such as history, geography, economics, sociology, and political science. This concept teaches students to see social phenomena from various perspectives and understand the relationships between these fields of science. This concept teaches students about the rights, obligations, roles, and responsibilities of being good citizens. Through social studies learning, students learn about the values of democracy, pluralism, human rights, and participation in community life. Openness to Differences Social Studies helps students understand and appreciate the diversity of cultures, religions, and political views. This concept encourages students to be more tolerant and respect differences in opinions and beliefs between individuals and groups. Critical Analysis Social Studies learning develops students' abilities to analyze information critically. They are taught to evaluate sources of information, understand different points of view, and develop rational arguments based on evidence. By understanding these concepts, students are expected to become individuals who are knowledgeable, critical, and active in society, and ready to face complex challenges in the future.

More effective social studies teaching methods or learning strategies so that students increase their understanding of social studies concepts, also promote critical thinking, collaborative, and problem-solving skills that are important for students in this modern era. Project-based learning (PBL) is a student-centered learning approach and aims to develop a deep understanding of concepts and skills through meaningful and contextual projects or assignments. The following are some of the main characteristics of Project Based Learning Project Learning begins with a complex and challenging central question or problem, designed to motivate students and guide learning activities. Students are actively involved in the entire learning process, including project planning, implementation, and assessment. They have greater control over their learning. The PBL learning method provides a powerful opportunity for students to learn in-depth while developing the critical skills and problem-solving abilities they need to succeed in the real world.

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